CLAIMS:

1.   A method of enabling a Digital Item to be consumed or otherwise manipulated
according to a set of operations defined by the Digital Item author or other entitled
party, the method including the step of incorporating a Digital Item manipulation method
5   or methods defining said set of operations into the Digital Item.

2.   A method of enabling a Digital Item to be consumed or otherwise manipulated
according to a set of operations defined by the Digital Item author or other entitled
party, the method includes the following steps:

10   i)   incorporating a Digital Item manipulation method or methods defining said
                set of operations into a Digital Item;

        ii)   providing said Digital Item, or a Digital Item declaration to a device;

        iii)   enabling said device to:

                a. determine an appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods
15   for the application;

                b. retrieve said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods;

                c. interpret said set of operations from said appropriate Digital Item
                manipulation method or methods; and

                d. perform interpreted set of operations from said Digital Item manipulation
20   method or methods on said Digital Item.

3.   A method of enabling a Digital Item to be consumed or otherwise manipulated
according to a set of operations defined by the Digital Item author or other entitled
party, the method includes the following steps:

25   i)   incorporating a Digital Item manipulation method or methods defining said
                set of operations into a Digital Item;

        ii)   providing said Digital Item, or a Digital Item declaration to a device;

        iii)   enabling said device to:

                a. determine an appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods
30   for the application;

                b. retrieve said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods;

                c. receive and be configured on the basis of other predetermined
                information;

                d. interpret said set of operations from said appropriate Digital Item
35   manipulation method or methods; and

e. perform said interpreted set of operations from said Digital Item manipulation method or methods on said Digital Item.

4.   A method of enabling a Digital Item to be consumed or otherwise manipulated according to a set of operations defined by the Digital Item author or other entitled party, the method includes the following steps:

i)   incorporating a Digital Item manipulation method or methods into a Digital Item defining said set of operations;

ii)   providing said Digital Item, or a Digital Item declaration to a device;

iii) enabling said device to:

a. determine an appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods for the application;

b. retrieve said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods;

c. configure said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods for said Digital Item;

d. interpret said set of operations from said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods; and

e. perform said interpreted set of operations from said Digital Item manipulation method or methods on said Digital Item.

5.   A method of enabling a Digital Item to be consumed or otherwise manipulated according to a set of operations defined by the Digital Item author or other entitled party, the method includes the following steps:

i)   incorporating a Digital Item manipulation method or methods defining said set of operations into a Digital Item;

ii)   providing said Digital Item, or a Digital Item declaration to a device;

iii) enabling said device to:

a. determine an appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods for the application;

b. retrieve said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods;

c. configure said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods for said Digital Item;

d. receive and be configured on the basis of other predetermined information;

e. interpret said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods; and

      f.   perform said interpreted operations from said Digital Item manipulation method or methods on said Digital Item.

6.   A method according to claim 5 wherein the Digital Item manipulation method is provided within the Digital Item or the Digital Item declaration.

7.   A method according to claim 5 or 6 wherein the other predetermined information includes information regarding user preferences, device capabilities and/or consumption environment.

8.   A method according to anyone of claims 1 to 5 wherein the Digital Item manipulation method includes an Intellectual Property Management and Protection (IPMP) mechanism.

9.   A method according to claim 8 including the step of protecting said device using said IPMP mechanism.

10.   Apparatus for enabling a Digital Item to be consumed or otherwise manipulated according to a set of operations defined by the Digital Item author or other entitled party, the apparatus including:

    i)   means for incorporating a Digital Item manipulation method or methods defining said set of operations into a Digital Item;

    ii)   means for providing said Digital Item, or a Digital Item declaration to a device;

    iii)   said device including:

        a.   means for determining an appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods for the application;

        b.   means for retrieving said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods;

        c.   means for interpreting said set of operations from said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods; and

        d.   means for performing said interpreted set of operations from said Digital Item manipulation method or methods on said Digital Item.

11.   Apparatus for enabling a Digital Item to be consumed or otherwise manipulated according to a set of operations defined by the Digital Item author or other entitled party, the apparatus including:

    i)   means for incorporating a Digital Item manipulation method or methods defining said set of operations into a Digital Item;

    ii)   means for providing said Digital Item, or a Digital Item declaration to a device;

iii) said device including:

    a. means for determining an appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods for the application;

    b. means for retrieving said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods;

    c. means for receiving and being configured on the basis of other predetermined information;

    d. means for interpreting said set of operations from said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods; and

    e. means for performing said interpreted set of operations from said Digital Item manipulation method or methods on said Digital Item.

12. Apparatus for enabling a Digital Item to be consumed or otherwise manipulated according to a set of operations defined by the Digital Item author or other entitled party, the apparatus including:

    i) means for incorporating a Digital Item manipulation method or methods defining said set of operations into a Digital Item;

    ii) means for providing said Digital Item, or a Digital Item declaration to a device;

    iii) said device including:

        a. means for determining an appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods for the application;

        b. means for retrieving said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods;

        c. means for configuring said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods for said Digital Item;

        d. means for interpreting said set of operations from said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods; and

        e. means for performing said interpreted set of operations from said Digital Item manipulation method or methods on said Digital Item.

13. Apparatus for enabling a Digital Item to be consumed or otherwise manipulated according to a set of operations defined by the Digital Item author or other entitled party, the apparatus including:

    i) means for incorporating a Digital Item manipulation method or methods defining said set of operations into a Digital Item;

ii)   means for providing said Digital Item, or a Digital Item declaration to a device;

iii)   said device including:

   a.   means for determining an appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods for the application;

   b.   means for retrieving said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods;

   c.   means for configuring said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods for said Digital Item;

   d.   means for receiving and being configured on the basis of other predetermined information;

   e.   means for interpreting said set of operations from said appropriate Digital Item manipulation method or methods; and

   f.   means for performing said interpreted operations from said Digital Item manipulation method or methods on said Digital Item.

14.   A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said set of operations is described in a script.

15.   A method according to claim 14 wherein said script is included in the Digital Item as a resource within the Digital Item accessed by a reference URI from the Digital Item declaration

16.   A method according to claim 14 wherein said script is provided within the Digital Item declaration itself as a descriptor

17.   A method according to claim 14 wherein said script is referenced by an identifier such that a device, or a family of devices might have the operations of said script in-built at manufacture or by later modification

18.   Apparatus according to anyone of claims 10 to 13 wherein the Digital Item manipulation method includes an Intellectual Property Management and Protection (IPMP) mechanism.

19.   Apparatus according to claim 18 including means for protecting said device using said IPMP mechanism.

20.   Apparatus according to any one of claims 10 to 13 wherein said set of operations described in a script.

21.   Apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said script is included in the Digital Item as a resource within the Digital Item accessed by a reference URI from the Digital Item declaration

22. Apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said script is provided within the Digital Item declaration itself as a descriptor

23. Apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said script is referenced by an identifier such that a device, or a family of devices might have the operations of said script in-built at manufacture or by later modification

24. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 including a step of determining whether the device can perform the Digital Item manipulation method.

25. A method according to claim 24 further including the step of identifying elements of the Digital Item which can be processed by the Digital Item manipulation method.

26. Apparatus according to any one of claims 10 to 13 including means for determining whether the device can perform the Digital Item manipulation method.

27. Apparatus according to claim 26 further including means for identifying elements of the Digital Item which can be processed by the Digital Item manipulation method.